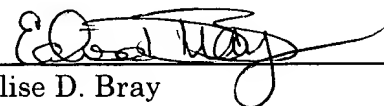


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 2, 2003.


Elise D. Bray

Applicant : Yoshikazu Umezu, et al.
Application No. : 09/308,607
Filed : May 20, 1999
Title : METHOD OF PRODUCTION OF CERAMICS

Grp./Div. : 1615
Examiner : Robert M. Joynes

Docket No. : 34650/DBP/A400

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
January 2, 2003

Commissioner:

In response to the Office action of September 3, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 to 5 and 11 to 13, and add new claims 14 to 15. All of pending claims 1 to 5 and 11 to 15 follow:

~~1. (Twice Amended) A process for producing porous spherically-shaped bio-ceramics comprising dropping a starting material for ceramics into a low temperature medium, followed by freeze drying and then sintering the same, wherein the starting material is obtained by adding, to a calcium~~

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